

To: Andrew Swick - NTSB

RE: Statement regarding plane crash on 6-22-15.

On 6-22-15, at about 0925 hours, I was off-duty and in my home located at [REDACTED]. While inside the house, I began to hear the sound of an airplane flying overhead and noticed that the sound of the plane was different than other planes that normally fly over the area.

I stepped out of the backdoor of my residence that faces towards the West and observed a small, dark colored plane flying from West to East over my residence. Due to the roof of my house I was only able to observe the plane for a few seconds, so I went back inside and stepped out my front door which faces towards the East.

I immediately saw the plane again and saw that it was flying straight and normal, continuing to fly towards the East. I estimated the plane to be flying about 500-750 feet above the ground and it appeared to be following the Quatal Canyon riverbed as it flew eastward.

As the plane continued to fly away, I again noted that the engine sounded different than normal planes, but could not see any signs of abnormal flying or distress. I watched the plane for a few more seconds until it was blocked by a tree about 200 yards from my residence.

I then went back inside my house and received a telephone call from my Dispatch center about 10-15 minutes later, advising that there had been a plane crash in the vicinity Quatal Canyon Road, about 2 miles East of Hwy 33. The on-duty Deputy, Paul Weirum, was responding, but had asked for me to respond to the scene also. I immediately recalled the plane I had observed a few minutes prior and began responding to the scene.

Deputy Weirum and I then arrived on scene at the same time a few minutes later and we observed the wreckage of a small plane lying in the Quatal Canyon riverbed. Due to the damage of the plane I was not able to positively determine that this was the same plane I had seen flying over my residence, but the color was the same and it was in the direction I had last seen the plane flying.

We then determined that there were no survivors and immediately began securing the scene. We also assisting the responding firefighters in extinguishing the fire started by the plane crash.

Please contact me if needed for further questions or information.

Deputy Troy Carpenter
Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department – New Cuyama Station

O: [REDACTED]
C: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]